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Title: Further discussion on the motion for consideration of the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1998 moved by Shri P. R. Kumaramangalam on the 20th July, 1998. Motion for consideration - adopted.

15.28 hrs

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Bill. Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta.

प्रो. अजित कुमार मेहता (समस्तीपुर) : सभापति महोदय, पिछले दिनों इस बिल पर हम चर्चा कर रहे थे तब मैंने कहा था कि सरकार को व्यापक विकास के लिए व्यापक ढंग से सोचना चाहिए, टुकड़ों-टुकड़ों में नहीं सोचना चाहिए। योजना आयोग से राय लेकर एक व्यापक योजना बनानी चाहिए। इरीगेशन, फ्लड कंट्रोल, जेनरेशन, ट्रांसमिशन, डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन और इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन सब शामिल हों, यह मेरा सरकार को सुझाव था। जब ट्रांसमिशन की बात आई तो मैंने ध्यान दिलाया था कि ट्रांसमिशन लॉस केवल लाइन में नहीं होता, बल्कि सबसे ज्यादा चोरी की भागीदारी इसमें होती है। जैसे दिल्ली विद्युत बोर्ड का उदाहरण दिया गया था। राज्य सभा में सरकार ने स्वयं कहा था कि बिना कुछ परिवर्तन किए चोरी में ट्रांसमिशन लॉस २४.३५ प्रतिशत से बढ़कर ४८.५७ प्रतिशत हो गया है। इसको रोकने के उपाय किए जाने चाहिए। दिल्ली में बी.जे.पी. की सरकार के राज में यह हुआ है। इसलिए केन्द्र और राज्य सरकार, दोनों के सहयोग से इसे दूर किया जा सकता है।

मैं आपको अपनी एक व्यथा बताना चाहता हूं। अभी एक ट्रांसमीशन लाइन मऊ से लेकर.

... (व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. There are many other Members who would also like to speak on this; then the hon. Minister would also reply to the debate.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Sir, I would take only three minutes.

SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA :Sir, we want to speak on the subject. We have been waiting for our chance ... (Interruptions) Yesterday I even did not go for my meeting due to this. I also want to speak on this subject ... (Interruptions)

प्रो. अजित कुमार मेहता (समस्तीपुर) : आप एक ट्रांसमीशन लाइन बिहार में मऊ तक ले जाने वाले हैं। मेरा सुझाव है कि इस लाइन को मुजफ्फरपुर से डाइवर्ट करें, इससे आप ४०० किलोवाट बिजली बिहार को उपलब्ध करा सकते हैं। फिलहाल इससे हमारा दुख दूर हो जाएगा।

महोदय मैं चर्चा कर रहा था कि हमारे यहां इलैक्ट्रीफिकेशन नहीं हो पाया है, क्योंकि बिजली बोर्ड के पास पैसा नहीं है।

REC ने १९८९ में ७९ करोड़ रुपया लोन लिया था, जो आज बढ़कर ३०५ करोड़ रुपए हो गया है। इस वजह से **REC** से आगे लोन नहीं मिल रहा है और बिहार का इलैक्ट्रीफिकेशन नहीं हो रहा है। मेरा सरकार से निवेदन है कि वह सूद-दर-सूद को माफ कर दे और फिलहाल इस राशि को एबेयेंस में रखकर बिहार इलैक्ट्रीसिटी बोर्ड को कर्ज देना आरम्भ कर दे।

... (व्यवधान)

आप इसे स्वीकार करें या न करें, लेकिन मेरा यह सुझाव है। अन्यथा गांवों का इलैक्ट्रीफिकेशन नहीं होगा और आप कहेंगे कि बिहार को बिजली की जरूरत नहीं है। इसलिए आपको मेरे इस सुझाव पर विचार करना चाहिए।

बाधारहित बिजली की आपूर्ति के बारे में कहना चाहता हूं। ताप बिजलीघर से संभव नहीं है कि आप पीक-आवर्स में बिजली की आपूर्ति कर सकें। सरकारी आंकड़ों के मुताबिक पीक-आवर्स में ६४,८८२ मेगावाट ऊर्जा की हमें आवश्यकता है, जबकि उपलब्धता ५६,२५२ मेगावाट है। यह अंतर करीब १३.२ प्रतिशत है। इस कमी को आप तभी पूरा कर सकते हैं, जब आप ताप बिजली के साथ-साथ पन-बिजली का भी इस्तेमाल करें। इसके लिए मैंने सुझाव दिया था कि बिहार में कोयल कारो, कदवन, कन्हड़ और शंख परियोजना को लें, जिससे दो हजार मेगावाट बिजली की आपूर्ति हो सकती है। इसके अतिरिक्त मेरा सुझाव है कि नेपाल के साथ अन्तरराष्ट्रीय समझौता कर पनबिजली की क्षमता का विस्तार करें। इससे उत्तर बिहार बाढ़ से भी मुक्त हो सकेगा और आप पीक-आवर्स में पर्याप्त बिजली भी दे सकेंगे।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं।

">SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to express my views in respect of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 1998.

Sir, our country is giving much importance and prominence to the development of infrastructure. The power sector plays a key and an important role in the field of infrastructure. Out of the various components of power sector, electricity plays the most important role.

Sir, I would like to highlight the three grounds on which I oppose this Bill. Before coming to the points which I would like to oppose, I would like to submit that generation, transmission and distribution are the three major steps of power supply. But it is a sad commentary for this country that we are not able to distribute power or electricity which we produce.

We are now in the fag end of the 20th century. We are having the advanced technology. The figures in regard to distribution and transmission show that we are suffering a loss of 16-22 per cent either in distribution or transmission. I would like to say that this has to be rectified first. We are producing each unit of electricity by spending a huge amount. But even after spending a huge amount on production, we have not been able to utilize properly the electricity so produced. This is the fate of our country. This has to be rectified. This can be rectified with the help of advanced technology that we have.

This Bill seeks to make transmission a distinct activity. According to me, generation, transmission and distribution, all these three activities go together. The purpose of the Bill is to separate transmission from the other two activities, and to make it a distinct and independent activity. We have a structural formula in which we have the Power Grid Corporation at the Central and regional levels and the State Electricity Boards in the States. In addition, there are other Government agencies in this field. The argument of the Government may be, the Power Grid Corporation or the public sector undertakings owned by the Government of India or the State Electricity Boards are not in a position to invest in transmission or in infrastructure development in the power sector. So, private investment could be attracted by way of privatizing the transmission sector. Hence, there is a need to amend the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and also the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948.

The question to be considered at this stage is, whether privatisation of the transmission sector will make good the handicap in our power sector, that is the loss of power. We have to consider whether that defect could be overcome by way of privatization. I think the answer is, `no'. It will create more confusion and complication. We have a uniform network for the supply of power. I have already pointed out that the Power Grid Corporations both at the Central and regional level and the State Electricity Boards as also the Report of Shankeraguruswamy show that the present network of power supply has several advantages. The first and the foremost advantage is that multiplicity of contracts could be avoided. Responsibility can be clearly demarcated and the commercial rates would be much more simple. The Electricity Boards will get the requirements from the Power Grid Corporation and the State Electricity Boards will be getting their requirements from the units. Such a uniform system having a better coordination between all these agencies is available in our country. The question of better coordination was discussed in the Standing Committee also. This question has to be answered first.

What would be the result if the transmission sector is completely or partly privatized? I think the entire system will suffer. That is the first reason on which I oppose this Bill. By doing this, there will be lack of coordination and it will also create confusion and complication.

Secondly, the power supply can never be confined to commercial benefits. The power sector has to be given priority on social grounds also. If the multinational companies or other private companies come in the field of transmission, their main aim would be to earn profits. So far as distribution of electricity is concerned, we are giving concessions to agriculture sector and weaker section of the society. Persons belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe also are being given benefits out of this. One of the Government Secretaries deposed before the Committee that it is very difficult for the private sector to handle distribution. Privatizing the distribution sector is very very difficult. Investing money at the transmission stage and then controlling it by the authorities enunciated in this amendment is very easy. So, I cannot support that point because this is an important sector. It has to be given much more priority. It cannot be privatized in-toto. It cannot be made absolutely for commercial benefits and considerations.

The third point that I would like to make is regarding the impact on the consumer. What would be the impact of this Bill, if it becomes an Act and is implemented on the consumers? The evidence tendered by the officials of the Ministry before the Standing Committee on Energy clearly shows that there is going to be only a marginal increase of power. Here I would like to quote para 54 of the Nineteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Energy. It reads:

"Asked about the expected impact on the consumers due to segregation of transmission, Ministry of Power in a note stated that while the SEBs could continue with low returns, a transmission licensee would expect reasonable returns commensurate with the investment and risk involved. It is, therefore, inevitable that the transmission charges for the components of transmission system built by the private sector on `Build, Own and Maintenance' basis would be marginally higher."

That goes to show that there is going to be an increase in the unit price also. That will come upon the poor consumers and the middle class people.

Sir, because of the aforementioned three reasons -- (1) element of commercial benefit because of privatisation (2) system suffering because of lack of coordination, and (3) the adverse impact on the common people -- I oppose this Bill.

With these words I conclude. Thank you.

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प्रो. प्रेम सिंह चन्दूमाजरा (पटियाला) : सभापति महोदय, जो विद्युत विधि (संशोधन) विधेयक, १९९८ माननीय ऊर्जा मंत्री जी ने रखा है मैं उसे सपोर्ट करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूं। मैं मंत्री जी को ऊर्जा संकट के बारे में गंभीरता से सोचने के लिए बधाई देता हूं। यह सच्चाई है कि देश के विकास के लिए ऊर्जा का फैक्टर बहुत ही महत्व रखता है और इस महत्व को समझते हुए इन्होंने जो देश के लिए ऊर्जा शक्ति चाहिए, उसको बढ़ाने के लिए जो उपाय सोचा है, मैं समझता हूं कि यह बहुत जरूरी था। जहां तक ट्रांसमिशन बाइफरकेट करने की बात चली है लेकिन मैं समझता हूं कि सिस्टम चेंज नहीं हुआ। आपने सैक्शन ४१(ए) के अंदर ३००० रुपए लम्पसम जुर्माना तो रख दिया, अच्छा यह होता अगर इसे रेश्यो के हिसाब से फिक्स किया जाता कि जितना बिल आता है उसके हिसाब से देना होगा। पहले भी देखा जाता है कि बिजली चोरी के लिए किसानों पर जुर्माना हो जाता है लेकिन जहां करोड़ों रुपए की चोरी होती है वहां कुछ नहीं होता है। जब सब के लिए ३००० रुपए होगा तो इससे बड़े लोग बच सकते हैं, इसलिए इस पर थोड़ा ओर सोच लिया जाए तो अच्छा होगा।

15.43 hrs (Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

महोदय, अगर सिस्टम यही रहेगा तो उससे कोई ज्यादा फायदा नहीं हो पाएगा। अगर अलग-अलग क्षेत्र बांट लिए जाएं- प्राइवेटाइजेशन का क्षेत्र अलग हों, सार्वजनिक का क्षेत्र अलग हों तो अच्छा होगा। जब हमारे यहां ट्रांसपोर्टेशन निजी क्षेत्र और सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के चलते हैं तो निजी क्षेत्र वाले, सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र वालों की बसें चलने ही नहीं देते, वैसाा ही यहां भी हो सकता है। इसलिए मैं चाहूंगा कि अगर हो सके तो उसमें थोड़ी सी अमेंडमेंट हो जाए तो अच्छी बात होगी। जहां ट्रांसमिशन फैक्टर को आपने गंभीरता से लिया है वैसे ही ऊर्जा के सैक्टर में कुछ ऐसे फैक्टर हैं जिनको गंभीरता से लेने की जरूरत है। जैसे प्लांट लोड फैक्टर है उसे भी गंभीरता से लेने की जरूरत है। हमारे देश में ८४,००० मेगावाट बिजली जेनरेट होने की केपेसिटी है, मगर ४०,००० मेगावाट के करीब बिजली हम पैदा करते हैं और ४०,००० मेगावाट में से भी ३०,००० मेगावाट के करीब चोरी हो जाती है। इसलिए अगर पूरी केपेसिटी बरती जाए तो मैं समझता हूं कि ऊर्जा का संकट काफी हद तक सोल्व हो सकता है। १३-१३, १४-१४ साल से लोगों ने ट्यूबवेल कनेक्शन लेने के लिए एप्लीकेशन दी हुई हैं लेकिन उनको बिजली नहीं मिलती, इसके लिए जरूरी है कि फुल केपेसिटी से प्लांट चले तो अच्छी बात होगी। ट्रांसमिशन के लिए यह भी जरूरी है कि कुछ स्टेटस में सरप्लस बिजली होती है जिसमें पीक सीजन में उनको डेफिसिट होती है, जैसे पंजाब में आठ महीने सरप्लस होती है।

चार महीने जब पैडी का सीजन होता है तो पंजाब में डैफिसिट होती है। अगर ट्रांसमीशन सिस्टम अच्छा होगा तो मैं समझता हूं कि डैफिसिट स्टेट को सरप्लस स्टेट से लाकर बिजली दी जाएगी और देश से ऊर्जा संकट दूर होगा। हमारे यहां विश्व में सबसे अधिक २१ प्रतिशत ट्रांसमीशन का नुकसान है, इसको भी सुधारने की जरुरत है। जो स्टेट इलैक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड हैं उनमें भी एफीशिएंसी लाने की आवश्यकता है क्योंकि ६३ प्रतिशत बिजली राज्य ही पैदा करते हैं, केन्द्र तो केवल २५ प्रतिशत ही बिजली पैदा करता है। इसलिए इनमें भी सुधार लाना जरूरी है।

जो ऑन-गोइंग प्रौजेक्टस हैं उनको भी पूरा करने की बात है। मैंने १० जून को एक सवाल पूछा था जिसके उत्तर में कहा गया कि उसकी फिगर्स हम मंगवा रहे हैं। मैंने प्रश्न नम्बर १६१९ पूछा था कि कितने प्रौजेक्टस हैं जो शुरू हुए हैं लेकिन पूरे नहीं हुए हैं। मुझे पता चला है कि १०० से अधिक ऐसे प्रौजेक्टस हैं जो पिछले कई सालों से शुरू हुए हैं लेकिन कम्पलीट नहीं हुए हैं। पंजाब में थीन डैम बहुत साल पहले शुरू हुआ था जिसकी शुरू में लागत ८५ करोड़ बताई गयी थी। जब प्लानिंग कमीशन में प्रौजेक्ट गया तो उसकी लागत ३०० करोड़ हो गयी और जब प्लानिंग कमीशन ने पास किया तो उसकी कीमत ६८० करोड़ हो गयी। आज उस पर ३००० करोड़ रुपया लग गया है लेकिन उससे बिजली भी नहीं मिली है और पाकिस्तान को पानी जा रहा है। अभी भी १६७ करोड़ रुपया उसके लिए केन्द्र देगा तो वह शुरू हो पाएगा। उसको शुरू हुए २५ साल हो गये हैं और हम उसकी सिल्वर-जुबली मनाने की सोच रहे हैं। इसलिए ऐसे जो ऑन-गोइंग प्रौजेक्टस हैं उनको अगर जल्दी से जल्दी पूरा किया जाए तो अच्छी बात है। थीन-डैम तो जल्दी पूरा होना ही चाहिए।

हाईडल प्रौजेक्टस से सस्ती बिजली बन सकती है और उसकी क्षमता भी बहुत अधिक है। हमारे यहां हिमाचल से कितना पानी आता है जिससे बाढ़ आ जाती है। अभी बाढ़ आई है और हमारी फसलों, घरों और पशुओं को नुकसान हुआ है। इसलिए डैम पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में बन जाएं तो बहुत अच्छी बात है। वहां के मुख्यमंत्री ने एक बयान भी दिया है और प्रधान मंत्री ने भी इस बारे में कहा है। जो हाईडल प्रौजेक्टस बनाए जा रहे हैं उनके लिए ऊर्जा मंत्री को मेरा एक सुझाव है कि जो राज्य प्रौजेक्टस के पास पड़ते हैं उन राज्यों को भी हिस्सेदार बनाया जाए। अब वहां पार्वती डैम बना है और उसकी क्षमता ३००० मैगावाट है लेकिन उसमें से पंजाब को एक मैगावाट बिजली भी नहीं दी जा रही है। राजस्थान, गुजरात और दिल्ली को हिस्सेदार बना लिया जबकि हमारी सड़कों पर होकर ढुलाई होती है जिससे आने-जाने में रुकावट होती है लेकिन हमें ही हिस्सेदार नहीं बनाया गया है। ऐसे ही हिमाचल में कोल-डैम है। इसलिए मेरा कहना है कि जो नजदीक के राज्य हैं उन्हें प्र ौजेक्टस में हिस्सेदार बनाया जाए तो उनको भी लाभ मिल सकता है। ऐसे ही नाफ्ता-जाखड़ी डैम है जिसमें ७५ प्रतिशत केन्द्र का और २५ प्रतिशत हिमाचल का हिस्सा है। पंजाब को उसमें भी हिस्सा नहीं दिया गया है। अब अखबारों में आ रहा है कि जो बिजली जैनरेट हो रही है और पानी यूज हो रहा है उस पर टैक्स होगा। मैं ऊर्जा मंत्री से कहूंगा कि हिमाचल में पहले ही १२ प्रतिशत जैनरेशन का फ्री दिया जाता है। मैं हिमाचल के विरोध में नहीं हूं लेकिन यह जरूर चाहूंगा कि अगर १२ प्रतिशत फ्री दिया जाता है तो रायल्टी लेने की जरूरत नहीं है। अगर रायल्टी लेनी है तो १२ प्रतिशत जैनरेशन का फ्री नहीं दिया जाए। कोई ऐसी पॉलिसी बनानी चाहिए जिससे बिजली का जो संकट है वह दूर हो सके।

सरकार ने ट्रांसमीशन को गंभीरता से लिया है, इसी प्रकार से जो बिजली चोरी होती है तो डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन को भी गंभीरता से लें और जैनरेशन को भी गंभीरता से लें। अगर ऐसा होता है तो बिजली का संकट देश से दूर हो सकता है और देश का विकास तेजी से हो सकता है। देर आयद, दुरूस्त आयद, इन्होंने जितना भी किया है, कुछ तो किया है उसके लिए बधाई भी देता हूं और सुपोर्ट भी करता हूं।

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श्री राजो सिंह (बेगूसराय): अध्यक्ष महोदय, विद्युत विधि संशोधन विधेयक स्वागत योग्य बिल है। मैं मंत्री जा का ध्यान पृष्ठ चार के धारा २७(ग) की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं। इसमें प्रावधान किया गया है कि "> 'जब तक केन्द्रीय आयोग की स्थापना नहीं की जाती, केन्द्रीय सरकार और उसके पश्चात केन्द्रीय आयोग, उपधारा (४) के उपबंधों के अधीन रहते हुए, किसी व्यक्ति को पारेषण अनुज्ञप्ति प्रदान कर सकेगा।'

मैं मंत्री जी को ज्यादा बधाई देता यदि यह प्रावधान होता कि बिल पास होने के ३० दिन के अन्दर आयोग का गठन कर दिया जाएगा। इससे सारे प्रावीजन ज्यादा उ पयोगी होते। इससे पहले अंग्रेजों के समय १९१० में यह बिल बना था। इसके बाद राज्यों के हित के लिए १९४८ में विद्युत बोर्ड का निर्माण किया गया। यह लाइसेंस देने का काम अपने जिम्मे रखना चाहते हैं। मुझे इस पर कोई एतराज नहीं है। आप लाइसेंस देकर लोगों को बिजली दें। आज भी हिन्दुस्तान के ७२ परसैंट लोग अंधेरे में रहते हैं। उनका बिजली से कोई वास्ता नहीं है।

महोदय, मंत्री जी जिस राज्य से आते हैं, वहां रामेश्वरम जाने का मुझे भी मौका मिला है। उसके रास्ते में रामनाथपुरम जिला है। वहां की औरतें अपने सिर पर घड़ा लिए काफी दूर पानी लेने जाती हैं। इस बिल को देखने के बाद ऐसा लगता है कि आखिर मंत्री महोदय चेन्नई से दिल्ली तो नहीं लौट आए। चेन्नई के अलावा दूसरे इलाकों में जहां आदिवासी, पिछड़े वर्ग, दलित वर्ग और गरीब वर्ग के लोग रहते हैं, उनके लिए पानी, बिजली की व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए। इन्होंने अपने नेशनल एजेंडा में भी हर वर्ग के लोगों के लिए बिजली के माध्यम से जल आपूर्ति स्कीम लाने की बात कही है। उसमें कहा गया है कि हर वर्ग के लोगों के लिए पानी की व्यवस्था की जाएगी। वह शायद यह बात भूल गए कि आजादी के इतने वर्षों के बाद भी वह लोगों को कुंए और नल से पानी नहीं दे पाए। उनके लिए जल आपूर्ति स्कीम बनाई जाए। आप जब तक उनके लिए बिजली की व्यवस्था नहीं करेंगे तब तक लोगों को पानी मुहैय्या नहीं कर पाएंगे। जो सरकार उत्तरांचल बनाने की बात करती है, वह लोगों के लिए बिजली और पानी की व्यवस्था नहीं कर पाई है। पहाड़ों में काफी दूरी पर लोग बसे हैं। उनके यहां पानी की व्यवस्था बिजली के माध्यम से ही हो सकती है। इस बात की जानकारी मैं सरकार को देना चाहता हूं। उनके लिए यह व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए।

मान्यवर, जब १९१० में यह एक्ट बना था तो बिजली तांबे के तार लगा कर दी जाती थी। जब उसकी चोरी होने लगी तो लोहे के तार देने शुरु कर दिए। अब अ ल्मुनियम के तार की व्यवस्था की जा रही है। इनका जो सफेद हाथी है, जो गांवों में बिजली देने के लिए निगम बना है, उसकी कागज पर सारी फीगर्स दिखा दी जाती हैं कि हमने गांवों में इतनी बिजली दी, तार दी लेकिन कनैक्शन दिया या नहीं, यह इनको देखना चाहिए।

मैं समझता हूं कि देश के लिये ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण निगम सफेद हाथी हो गया है। इसमें परिवर्तन लाने की आवश्यकता है। यदि संशोधन के द्वारा यह व्यवस्था की जाती तो बहुत बड़ा प्रगति का रास्ता हो सकता था।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, जहां तक उत्पादन बढ़ाने की बात है, उसे प्राईवेट पार्टी करे, प्राईवेट सैक्टर में जाये लेकिन बिजली बढ़ने से किसानों को मिल जायेगी, मैं ऐसा नही समझता। यदि आप उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार के टयूबवैल्ज़ को देखेंगे तो मालूम होगा कि वे सारे बंद पड़े हुये हैं। वहां या तो बिजली द्वारा या सरकारी मोटरों के द्वारा बिजली के पम्प लगाये जाते हैं। ये लोग अपनी व्यवस्था नहीं कर पाते हैं जिससे सिंचाई की व्यवस्था नहीं हो सकती है। आपने इसके लिये क्या व्यवस्था की है?

अध्यक्ष महोदय, इसमें यह व्यवस्था नहीं की गई कि राजस्व की वसूली कैसे होगी? यदि छोटे किसानों पर पांच हजार रुपया बकाया रह जाता है तो इंस्पैक्टर या अ फसर उसकी बिजली काट देता है लेकिन किसी बड़े व्यापारी या उद्योगपति पर लाखों रुपया बकाया है, वह नहीं देता तो उसके खिलाफ कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की जाती। संभवतः वह प्राईवेट लाईन या अंडरग्राउंड वायरिंग से बिजली लेता है। उससे न मोटर का खर्चा आता है और न वह बिल देता है। क्या आपने इसको देखने का काम किया है? इससे सरकार को काफी क्षति उठानी पड़ रही है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री कुमारमंगलम जी पहले हमारे दल में थे और तिरुपति में कांग्रेस वर्किंग मैम्बर थे। उस समय हम बिहार से ए.आई.सी.सी. के मैम्बर्स वहां बैठे हुये थे। ये हमारे सामने वोट मांगने आये। हम जानते थे कि पार्लियामेंट में यह तेज़-तर्रार एम.पी. हैं तथा हाउस में पब्लिक ग्रीवांसेज़ रखा करते थे, हमें इनके पिता

स्व. मोहन कुमारमंगलम को देखने का मौका मिला था, वे इस देश के जाने-माने, विद्वान नेता थे और यह इनके सुपुत्र हैं। आज न जाने यह उधर क्यों चले गये? इतने बड़े आदमी के सुपुत्र रास्ता भटक गये हैं। यह जब इधर थे तो सरकार में रहने का मौका मिला था। आपने कभी सोचा है कि सरकारी दफ्तर में क्या क्या होता है? आज आप एक गरीब और किसान को, जो झोंपड़ी में रह रहा है, उसको पकड़ने जा रहे हैं लेकिन आपका दरोगा, कलैक्टर, एस.डी.ओ. बिना कनेक्शन लिये हुये बिजली जलाते हैं और उसका मीटर भी नहीं चलता है। उस पर कोई बकाया पैसा नही है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि इसके लिये आप क्या व्यवस्था करेंगे? मेरा सुझाव है कि आप एक नियमावली बनाईये जिसे इस टेबल पर रखिये और एक महीना बाद उसको लागू करिये। आप यह व्यवस्था करें।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ एक और सुझाव देते हुये अपनी बात समाप्त करूंगा। आप एक टास्क फोर्स बना दीजिये जो सारे प्रकरण की जांच करे। वह उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार, उड़ीसा में पता लगाये कि ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण निगम के नाम पर कितना पैस खर्च किया गया। जो पैसा खर्च किया गया, उससे कितना तार खरीदा गया? उस पैसे से कितने पोल खरीदे गये? उसके द्वारा यह पता लगाया जाए कि ट्रासफार्मर्स खरीदे गये या नहीं, किसानों के खेतों की पानी द्वारा सिंचाई हो रही है या नहीं और बिजली के माध्यम से पाईपलाईन से पीने की पानी की व्यवस्था की जा रही है या नहीं?

16.00 hrs

मैं समझता हूं कि आपने कदम उठाया है। मैंने कहा कि वह स्वागत योग्य कदम है, लेकिन मुझे डर है कि यह आयोग बनाने की बात तो आपने ज़रूर कर ली है, लेकिन आप टास्क फोर्स भी बना दें और आज बिल के अवसर पर कहें कि हम टास्क फोर्स बनाएंगे और उससे जांच कराकर जो भी कार्रवाई होगी, जो सफेद हाथी बैठा हुआ है, चाहे यहां बैठा रहे चाहे बाहर सचिवालय में या फील्ड में बैठा रहे, उन लोगों पर कार्रवाई करेंगे और बिजली उत्पादन करके ज्यादा से ज्यादा ग्रिड हर स्टेट में बनाकर बिजली मुहैया करेंगे।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं। धन्यवाद।

(इति)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, at 4 o' clock, we have to take up discussion under Rule 193. I want to take the sense of the House. Today, we want to complete the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Bill. Then, we can take up discussion under Rule 193.

SERVERAL MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: So, this is the sense of the House.

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री तथा पर्यटन मंत्री (श्री मदन लाल खुराना): दिल्ली में जो हड़ताल चल रही है हॉस्पिटल्स वगैरह में, उसके बारे में मैंने सुबह कहा था कि मैं बात करूंगा। आज स्टेटमेंट के लिए लिखकर आपको दिया है। मंत्री जी स्टेटमेंट देने के लिए तैयार बैठे हैं। अगर आप कहें तो वह स्टेटमेंट दे दें।

... (व्यवधान)

डा.शकील अहमद (मधुबनी) : दिल्ली के मुख्य मंत्री को २०० रुपया फाइन किया गया है, उसके बारे में मंत्री जी कुछ कहें। हमें मालूम है कि आप खुश हैं, मगर उसके बारे में तो कुछ कहें।

... (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare wants to make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Om Prakash will speak on the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Bill.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Excuse me, Sir, two days back, the same Bill was going on but it was postponed and the discussion on Maruti Udyog was taken up at the time which was specified in the List of Business. May I know why this discrimination when the atrocities on women are to be discussed because nothing will be finished now?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, there is no discrimination at all.

... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, it should be taken up now. ....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This Bill has been coming up for the last four days. After completing it, we will take up Discussion under Rule 193. There is no discrimination.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no question of discrimination. We will take it up today itself.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Om Prakash.

... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : This is discrimination. MR. SPEAKER: There is no discrimination. We will take it up today. There is no problem.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Shri Om Prakash.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, no disturbance please.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (RAJNANDGAON): Sir, I am on a point of order. ....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (RAJNANDGAON): The Government has permitted the State to control the strike of the health employees. ....(Interruptions) People are dying and the dead bodies which are kept in the mortuaries are eaten away by ants. We do not want to hear from the Minister all these details of what meeting had taken place. What actual action has been taken? ....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No point of order please.

Shri Om Prakash.

">16.12 hrs.

श्री ओमप्रकाश (गाज़ीपुर) : माननीय अध्यक्ष जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो विद्युत विधि (संशोधन) विधेयक, १९९८ इस सदन में पेश किया है मैं उसके पक्ष में बोलने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूं। मैं इतना जरूर कहूंगा कि मंत्री महोदय ने इस विधेयक को यहां प्रस्तुत करने से पहले इस पर न केवल उन्होंने बल्कि उनके पूरे मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों ने खूब चिन्तन और मन्थन किया होगा और मंत्री महोदय ने तथा मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों ने इसे गंभीरता से लिया होगा। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि बिजली आज मानव के जीवन की आवश्यक अंग बन गई है। बिना बिजली के ऐसा लगता है कि मानव जीवन अधूरा है। इसलिए इसकी आपूर्ति बढ़े इसके लिए सोचना जरूरी है क्योंकि यह जनजीवन से जुड़ी हुई है। इस समस्या का समाधान हम कैसे करें, इसके ऊपर गहनता से सोचने की जरूरत है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, ५० वर्ष की आजादी के बाद आज भी हमारे देश के गांव और देहात बिजली न होने के कारण अंधेरे में डूबे हुए हैं। आज गांव का हर व्यक्ति सोचता है कि हम ऐसे स्थान पर रहें जहां बिजली उपलब्ध हो, लेकिन स्थिति यह है कि खेत और खलिहान में बिजली का अभाव दिखाई दे रहा है। सबसे पहले देश की आजादी के समय यह विचारधारा पनपी कि बिजली को सरकारी क्षेत्र में रखा जाए, क्योंकि निजी क्षेत्र में लोगों के पास इतना धन नहीं होगा कि वे इसको निजी क्षेत्र में संचालित कर सकें। अतः बिजली को सरकारी क्षेत्र में लाने के लिए खूब धूम मचाई गई और प्राईवेट सैक्टर की बात को इसलिए टाल दिया गया कि उसके पास इतना पैसा नहीं है कि वह इस व्यवस्था को कारगर बना सके।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस क्षेत्र में जितनी भागीदारी निजी क्षेत्र के लोगों की होनी चाहिए, उतनी नहीं हुई। हमारे बिजली विभाग के पूर्व मंत्री ने इस बात को उजाकर कर दिया कि जितनी तादाद में इस क्षेत्र में प्राईवेट लोग आने चाहिए थे, उतनी तादाद में नहीं आ सके। अब सरकारी क्षेत्र से बिजली को निजी क्षेत्र में लाया जा रहा है और २० साल बाद फिर कहीं यह न हो कि इसे पुनः निजी क्षेत्र से सरकारी क्षेत्र में लाना पड़े, इसलिए अच्छी तरह से सोच-समझ कर इस विधेयक को पारित किया जाए।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, जैसा कि मंत्री महोदय स्वीकार करते हैं कि देश में ४७ प्रतिशत बिजली की चोरी हो रही है और जब आधे से थोड़ी सी कम मात्रा में बिजली चोरी हो रही है, तो हमें पूरी की पूरी व्यवस्था पर कारगर तरीके से सोचना चाहिए और इस समस्या का समाधान करना चाहिए। उत्तरी ग्रिड में जम्मू-कश्मीर, उत्तर प्रदेश, हिमाचल प्रदेश, राजस्थान, पंजाब और हरियाणा आते हैं जिसमें २० बिजलीघर हैं। इनमें से उत्तर प्रदेश में सबसे अधिक हैं। एक महीने में तीन बार विद्युत सप्लाई फेल हुई और पूरा का पूरा बिजली विभाग इस बात पर चिन्तन और मन्थन करता रहा कि कब विद्युत की गड़बड़ी ठीक होगी लेकिन उसके लिए हम आज तक कोई व्यवस्था नहीं कर पाए हैं और इस बात पर नहीं पहुंच पाए हैं कि हम उसका समाधान कैसे करें।

बार-बार पूछने के बावजूद राष्ट्रीय ताप विद्युत निगम के सचिव वगैरह साफ-साफ यह बताने को तैयार नहीं हुए कि वह फेल क्यों हुआ और इसके क्या उपाय हैं? इसके लिए एक समिति गठित की गई थी लेकिन वह समिति अभी तक यह तय नहीं कर पायी कि उसमें कौन सा फाल्ट था, कौन सी कमी थी, कौन सी मजबूरी थी, कौन सा टेक्नीकल फाल्ट था जिससे उत्तरी ग्रिड फेल हुआ।

आज देश का बहुत बड़ा भाग बिजली न होने के कारण अंधकार में है। आज भी सिनमन गांव में ऐसा कहा जाता है कि यदि बिजली विभाग के कर्मचारियों को तन्खवाह न दी जाये और कहा जाये कि तुम तन्खवाह के आधार पर नौकरी न करो, तो वे वेतन नहीं लेंगे बल्कि इसमें अटूट लूट के कारण वे नौकरी करते रहेंगे । गांव के हर खेत खलिहान में इस बात को कहा जाता है। अगर इसके समाधान के लिए बिजली विभाग के अधिकारियों ने कायदे से कार्यवाही की होती, जैसे अभी राजो सिंह जी ने कहा कि बहुत से संस्थानों पर बकाया हैं जैसे सिंचाई विभाग, कलैक्टरी, थाने और अन्य बड़े-बड़े संस्थान। इसके साथ-साथ जो स्टेट के विद्युत बोर्ड हैं, उन पर भी बकाया है। इस बात को सरकार में रहने वाले लोग महसूस करते हैं या नहीं कि यह मेरा घर है और इसे जिम्मेदारी से निभाने का काम अगर हम करते तो यह नहीं कह सकते थे कि समस्या इतनी गम्भीर बनी रहती। लेकिन इस बात को दावे के साथ कह सकते थे कि यदि इस विभाग के मंत्री और अधिकारी जिम्मेदारी से काम करते तो जो इतनी बड़ी समस्या है, उसे बहुत कम कर दिया गया होता और फिर इस संशोधन बिल को लाने की जरूरत न होती।

जब यह संशोधन बिल सदन में लाया गया है, मैं मंत्री जी से कहना चाहूंगा कि यह देश की बहुत बड़ी समस्या है। इसको बड़ी गंभीरता से लेने की जरूरत है क्योंकि बिजली ने एक आदमी की जिंदगी का रूप ले लिया है। यदि उसके समाधान के लिए हम चिन्तन मन्थन करने का काम नहीं करेंगे तो जो समस्या आज दिखाई दे रही है, वह प्राइवेट क्षेत्र में चले जाने से भी हल नहीं होगी। प्राइवेट सैक्टर में जाने के बाद, ऐसा नहीं कि कोई अलाउद्दीन का चिराग की तरह जहां-जहां घुमाए वहां-वहां बिजली चली जाये - ऐसा बिल्कुल नहीं है। आज इसमें संकल्प और इच्छाशक्ति की कमी है। हमारे अधिकारी जिन पर हम लाखों करोड़ों रुपये खर्च करते हैं, यदि उनमें आत्मबल, संकल्प और इच्छाशक्ति जाग्रत हो जाये तो आज भी इसे कारगर रूप दिया जा सकता है। लेकिन बड़ी बड़ी फैक्टरी वाले, होटल वाले कागज में पांच हार्स पावर का इंजन लगायेंगे जबकि होटल वगैरह में २५-२५ हार्स पावर का इंजन चलाते हैं। एक ए.सी. की जगह तीन ए.सी. चलायेगे। खेत खलिहान वाला एक बल्ब भी जला ले तो वह भी बड़ी बात है। कुछ टयूबवैल भी चोरी से चलाते है। गांव के दो-चार दबंग किस्म के लोग ही ऐसे चला सकते हैं लेकिन जो गरीब है, मर्माहत है, दुखी है, पीड़ित है, बेहाल है, वह इंसपैक्टर राज में कभी भी बिजली जलाने या बिजली चुराने का काम नहीं करेगा। इसलिए मैं यह जरूर कहूंगा कि संशोधन के साथ-साथ मन और मिजाज साफ होना चाहिए। हमें दृष्टि बहुत दूर तक ले जाने की जरूरत है। यदि हम संशोधन कर रहे हैं तो गांव में रहने वाले लोग, जो इस देश की आत्मा कहे जाते हैं, किसान जिनके बारे में यह परिभाषा है कि भारत गांवों का देश है, किसानों का देश है और इस देश में जो सबसे अधिक मर्माहत, दुखी, पीड़ित या बेहाल है तो वह किसान ही है। शहर के लोग कहीं न कहीं से अपना तामझाम दिखाकर, कुछ ऊपर नीचे देखकर जैसे तैसे अपनी व्यवस्था कर लेते हैं लेकिन गांव घर, खेत खलिहान में रहने वाला व्यक्ति इंसपेक्टर राज में आफिस में आने से डरता है और अपनी बात इच्छाशक्ति से कह भी नहीं पाता ।

इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से कहूंगा कि वे इस गंभीर विषय पर सोचने का काम करें क्योंकि माननीय मंत्री जी एक महान पिता के पुत्र हैं। मैं कम से कम १८-१९ साल से उन्हें जानता हूं । जब हम बी.एस.सी. में पढ़ते थे, वह शायद यूनीवर्सिटी के प्रभारी थे, हम बी.एस.सी. के छात्र नेता थे, उस समय उनसे मिले थे। तब से मैं कम से कम १८-१९ साल से जानता हूं।

... (व्यवधान)

संगत का असर पड़ता है। 'संगत से गुण होत है, संगत से गुण जाये'। संगत से उधर इन चार-छः महीनों में पता नहीं कितना असर पड़ा है।

अंत में मैं मंत्री जी से यह जरूर कहूंगा कि यह गंभीर विषय है और इस पर ठीक से सोचने समझने की जरूरत है। जयहिन्द।

">PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (BARAMULLA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I consider this Bill as a progressive measure. It is progressive because of two things. One is, for the first time, transmission is seen as an activity independent of generation and distribution. The second factor for calling it as a progressive measure is that my colleagues from the Left, for the first time, have evolved a consensus that any activity can go to the private sector. Even while watching from a distance, they do feel that it is good to put the transmission in the private hands. Therefore, this is a progressive measure.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): So, you concede that what we support must be progressive.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : You also support, sometimes, in silence. I have lived too long with you to understand these things. Anyway, I am very happy. I consider this Bill as a progressive measure. If Shri Kumaramangalam, I know his ability, had more time, maybe, he would have drafted the Bill better.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :What was the hurry?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: It is because there are so many thefts, and there are so many weaknesses in the system. So, he feels that the transmission activity should be modernised, and we give him all support for this.

We, in Jammu and Kashmir, have suffered a great deal because even when the power was available in Salal we could not take it to Kashmir Valley. The Centre did not come to our rescue at all. But now, when this Government has come in the State, there is adequate electricity and, at the moment, we have no problem. But for the future, the transmission activity should not be left only to the State Government. From the Centre, this capable Minister must oversee the arrangements of transmission because a lot of talent is available around in engineers and other personnel. So, we should have good transmission lines because transmission is a very big problem in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

As far as thefts are concerned, you have already stated that it is horrible. There are thefts of two kinds. One is that the individuals do it. They do it in so many States. Then, there is the organised theft. There is theft because transmission system is not modernised or organised. We are a poor country and there is no doubt about it. But henceforth, wherever it is possible, is it not feasible to have an under-ground transmission as in other countries? I do not compare with America or the Europe. But I saw in some countries of the Middle-East, which have come up very recently, where the whole system of transmission is under-ground. Therefore, when the hon. Minister raises to answer these points that we have raised, would he not like to say what he will contribute in the future? What is he going to do? Will he initiate some measures to put these lines under-ground? Once the transmission lines are under-ground, the thefts will be checked to a large extent.

Coming to the licenses, I think, they will go to the private sector. But arrangements will have to be made to see that these licenses are held by people who have not only the money but also the wherewithal. The private sector's first concern is profit, and profit is wanted by people who have money and who can invest it. Of course, these things will come in the rules, but in the Bill, he could have provided some broad qualifications. For the grant of transmission licenses to any person, we have to qualify it in the Bill. The rules will come later. Will it go to persons and companies on asking? Those companies should pass some tests and those tests have to be rigorous.

Then we shall have no objection, but such a situation is not reflected in the Bill.

Then coming to punishment, Shri P. R. Kumaramangalam, I think, has not found time to see the punishment. I invite the attention of the hon. Minister to page 5, Clause 6, line 4 which reads as follows: -

"41A. Whoever, in contravention of the provisions of this Act or regulations or licence conditions, engages in the business of transmission of energy shall be punishable with fine which may extend to Rs.3,000".

What is the punishment? A fine of Rs.3,000 is no punishment. Even now, he will not make it as a point of prestige. During the last many times, the hon. Minister has accepted whatever good suggestions were given. If you are punishing a person or company or any entrepreneur, shall a fine of this meagre amount be imposed? If he continues to commit thefts or go against the law on a day to day basis, he will be charged Rs.300 per day.

I would request the hon. Minister to kindly consider this measure and this level of punishment. It must be raised. I would like to say that if it is a company, it should be Rs.1 lakh, if it is an individual Rs.10,000 and if that company or individual continuously violates law, they should be debarred because others will come. You say that there will be a daily fine which may extend to Rs.300/-. This is absolutely wrong and I think the hon. Minister will understand. He has a level of understanding. He should not give support to this measure even now. But sometimes Ministers miss because others prepare these things.

So, I would request the hon. Minister to enhance punishment. It should become a deterrent. There is no prevention of rules. I find certain ideas have been offered. I consider this measure very progressive.

I support this Bill but with the minor amendments which I have offered.

Thank you very much.

">SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (AKOLA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the Electricity Bill is concerned, I would like to raise the issue of the industries that are being shifted because of increase in power tariff. [Maharashtra is one State which went in for privatisation in power sector for the first time. It has still to come in line. But there is one effect that has taken place. I think the hon. Minister has to look into it because it is going to create imbalance and that imbalance is that industries from Maharashtra are being shifted to Silvasa, Daman, and Gujarat. A few days ago, there was a meeting of the industries of Western Zone in which the tariff rates that are going to be fixed by the State Electricity Boards are going to be so high that they said that the conclusion would be either to shift the industries or to close down the industries. There are a few States which are more industrialised. Maharashtra is one of them. If the industries are going to feel the pinch of the increase of the new policy that has come, the other effect would be on the agriculture sector.

Apart from the agriculture sector, the other one is the consumers of the home industry which is there. That is also going to be affected. In the course of the reply, I would like to know from the hon. Minister why they are going in for the increase in tariff in respect of the whole thing. I would also like to know whether they have taken into calculation this unbearable tariff in respect of the users and what are the consequences that are going to be there. If the consequences are going to lead to a situation where nobody would be in a position to afford it, then the question of the counter-guarantee that has been given by the Minister and by the Government comes in. What is going to happen to the Electricity Boards? I would also like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is going to be its effect on the Balance of Payments position.

Sir, these are the two important factors which, I think, the hon. Minister has to take into consideration. I do request him that even though he is making a distinction between production and supply, and the other things, the security angle also has to be taken into consideration. He has to take into consideration the vulnerability of the security angle also. I hope he will take this into consideration and reply.

">SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (NARASARAOPET): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I would like to say that power saved is power generated. There are no two opinions about this. The amending Bill mainly aims at transmission, licences and certain other changes in the system of transmission. Unless and until we have enough power, the question of transmission comes next only.

There are three distinct areas which are generation, transmission and distribution. Nodoubt, in almost all the States of this country, transmission losses are on the very high side. They may slightly vary from one State to another. As a matter of fact, so far, no concrete steps have been taken to bring down the losses in transmission. Of course, some attempts have been made by the respective Electricity Boards but they have not resulted in any tangible success. I am putting one question to the hon. Minister. What are the steps taken by this Government either in Delhi or in the States to step up generation of power? Mr. Minister, are you reviewing the projects that are likely to come up in this country? Is there any systematic review?

I hail from Andhra Pradesh. A number of power projects have been awarded to the private parties there. But I am sorry to say that in respect of many of the projects, the people concerned have not even laid the foundation-stone for generation of power. For instance, as you are all very well aware, Visakhapatnam is a fast-growing city. From all angles, it is a very fast-growing city. There, the Hindujas were given a power project long long ago. But it is only on paper. The PPAs have been signed. The PPAs have been revised. Similarly, in Ramagundam of Andhra Pradesh, another power project was given to BPL in the year 1994. On 31st October, 1994, they signed the Power Purchase Agreement also. At that time, the estimated investment for the power project of 500 MW was only Rs.1611 crore. Later on, the Government that came into power started saying that the estimate was on the high side.

Criticising the approval given for Rs.1,611 crore, they revised the PPA and ultimately they agreed for an investment of Rs.2,384 crore. Similarly, in the beginning, when the Hindujas signed an agreement with the Electricity Board for setting up 1,000 megawatt power project in Vizag, the estimated investment was around Rs.2,200 crore. Now, I do not know whether it has touched the figure of Rs.6,000 crore or even crossed this figure.

If any power project proposal is properly examined, I am sure, the Minister will also agree that it is not moving in the right direction. It is not only that, but what about the rates? The power rates hitherto were very low. I do not know when these power projects will start generation. When they go for generation, the power charges are going up horribly and beyond the reach of the common man. My appeal to the hon. Minister is that he should concentrate first on generation. Later on, he can think about transmission and at a later stage, think of distribution also.

No new connections are given to the agricultural community in many of the States. Similarly, SC and ST colonies used to get power in the past on a priority basis. Now it is not there. They are not electrified. I am sorry to say that there are a number of SC, ST colonies that still remain without power. Some of the colonies have got the electric poles. Poles were installed some five, six years ago but no power connections have yet been given. My appeal to the Minister and the Government is to concentrate on generation and think about the transmission later on.

Simply by distinctly looking at the transmission, things are not going to improve. That is my apprehension. Unless you bring some radical changes as Prof. Soz has said, things are not going to improve. The penalty of Rs.3,000 is not a penalty at all. A man who is entrusted with the task of power transmission may say, "I do not have change to pay the penalty. I will commit another mistake and I will pay Rs.6,000." The hon. Minister should look into these things if he really wants to improve the conditions prevailing in the country with regard to power. Thank you.

">SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA (MARMAGOA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would rise here to congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing forward in such a progressive Bill. In fact, it should have been brought here much earlier. It is better late than never.

Today, power is the backbone for the development of the country. We have seen that some of the projects which were approved during the time of Eighth Five Year Plan have still not been completed. I know, recently, there was a meeting of the Power Ministers of various States called by the hon. Minister. I do not know what was the outcome of that meeting. My request would be that the Prime Minister has to intervene and call a joint meeting of all the Chief Ministers along with the Power Ministers so that if there is any hurdle in the generation of electricity from the various power projects that were approved during the Eighth Five Year Plan, they take off immediately.

In the Ninth Five Year Plan, some of the projects that have been earmarked have not even taken off because of various constraints. If you see the transmission and distribution aspect, it has further degenerated. Can you imagine that in some States and in some Electricity Boards like the DVB, the losses are to the tune of 48 per cent to 52 per cent?

I would request the hon. Minister to appoint a Task Force to immediately go through as to why such transmission losses are there. Actually, these are not the transmission losses. This is an illegal theft, pilferage. There cannot be pilferage without the consent of the officers who are there.

Sir, I was going through the punishment aspect in the Act. What is Rs. 3,000/-? Let there be two types of punishments -- one for domestic and one for industrial pilferage. Along with the punishment, there should be imprisonment so that it is a deterrent for those people not to go for theft.

Sir, there is allocation of power to various States from the Central Grid. But we have seen that this allocation does not reach particular States. One of the victims is the State from where I hail, that is, Goa. The allocation for

Goa from Ramagundam and Korba is 350 mw. But up till now, we can draw only 200 mw. What is the reason? Because, there is no line between Kolhapur and Konda.

Therfore, I would request the hon. Minister and like to ask for his assurance that the money required for this transmission will be allocated by them before transmission is passed on to the private sector because I know, after that, nobody will pay heed to this. It needs about Rs. 150 crore. I would again request the hon. Minister to sanction this amount of Rs. 150 crore so that the missing link which is there between Kolhapur and Go can be easily made up and we can utilise the remaining 150 mw of power which have been allocated to Goa.

Today, Goa is going hungry. Our industries cannot compete with others because of the power-cut. Due to the power-cut, the industries work for only six to eight hours and on the other side, labour is also expensive in Goa.

I would congratulate the hon. Minister. I would request him and I would like to have his assurance that this gap of 150 mw, which is there, will be made up. The consumers in Goa will be happy that our hon. Minister has helped them in the way of transmission. With these words, I conclude.

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श्री के.डी.सुल्तानपुरी (शिमला): स्पीकर सर, आजादी के बाद १९५० में हमारी और चाइना की बिजली पैदा करने की क्षमता एक समान थी। लेकिन उसके बाद हमारे देश की बिजली पैदा करने की क्षमता ९० हजार मैगावाट हुई और चीन की २ लाख ३० हजार के करीब हो गयी। जहां तक इस बिल का सवाल है, यह ठीक है लेकिन इसमें जो हाईडल और कोयले से बिजली पैदा करने की बात है तो मैं समझता हूं कि सरकार को चाहिए कि जहां कोयले का भंडार है वहां पर बड़े थर्मल प्रौजेक्टस लगाए और जहां पर पानी है वहां पर हाईडल प्रौजेक्टस लगाए। अभी पंजाब के साथी कह रहे थे कि पानी के कारण उनकी जमीनें बह गयी हैं तो क्या भारत सरकार ने कभी यह सोचा है कि जो पहाड़ी इलाके हैं चाहे हिमाचल के हों, गढ़वाल को हों या कश्मीर के हों, उन इलाकों के लोगों को कभी कंपनसेशन नहीं दिया जाता है। भाखड़ा डैम जो बना है उसमें विलासपुर के लोगों को सफर करना पड़ा, व्यास डैम से भी हमारे लोगों को सफर करना पड़ रहा है। जितने भी हिमाचल के प्रौजेक्टस बने।

उन्हें उत्तर प्रदेश और राजस्थान को देने के लिए कहा गया है लेकिन राजस्थान सरकार मार-पीट के सिवाय कुछ नहीं करती। हिमाचल प्रदेश में गरीब जाति के लोग हैं, अनुसूचित जाति के लोग हैं। वहां आज भी लोग गरीबी रेखा से नीचे रहते हैं। उनको परेशान किया जाता है।

महोदय, हिमाचल प्रदेश में २० हजार मेगावाट बिजली पैदा करने की क्षमता है। हमने इस पर जो टैक्स लगाया है, उसकी पंजाब की तरफ भी देनदारी है। हमने उनसे १२०० करोड़ रुपए लेने हैं। मंत्री महोदय कुछ दिनों पहले हिमाचल प्रदेश गए थे। उनके नोटिस में यह बात लाई गई होगी। वहां बी.जे.पी. की सरकार है। दिल्ली और हिमाचल प्रदेश में बी.जी.पी. की सरकार है। हिमाचल प्रदेश में वोट भी इस आधार पर लिए गए कि यहां बी.जे.पी. की सरकार बनने से हिमाचल प्रदेश में खुशहाली आएगी। हिमाचल प्रदेश का जो बकाया है, वह उसे दिया जाए। पिछली बकाया राशि को खत्म करने की साजिश की जा रही है। आज हिमाचल प्रदेश में भी पौल्यूशन हो रहा है। वहां के इलैक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड का करोड़ों रुपया बकाया है। वह बड़े-बड़े आदमियों और उद्योगपतियों की तरफ बकाया है लेकिन सरकार इस तरफ ध्यान नहीं देती। हिमाचल प्रदेश के किसान लगातार यह मांग कर रहे हैं कि हमें ज्यादा से ज्यादा बिजली दी जाए।

बिल में लाइसैंस देने की जो बात कही है, वह किन को दिया जाएगा, यह नहीं बताया गया। लाइसेंस लेने के बाद कोई गड़बड़ करेगा तो उसको क्या सजा मिलेगी? क्या इसके लिए बाद में अधिनियम बनाया जाएगा? अधिनियम बनाने में बहुत समय लग जाएगा। पता नहीं तब तक यह सरकार रहती है या नहीं? जयललिता जी आपको बराबर धमकी दे रही है। आप दोनों तरफ मंत्री रहे हैं। आप एक अच्छे परिवार से ताल्लुक रखते हैं और फ्रीडम फाइटर के सुपुत्र हैं। आप हिमाचल प्रदेश पर कुछ कृपा करें क्योंकि यह सरकार थोड़े दिनों की है। इस बीच में आप कुछ कीजिए ताकि हमारा काम ठीक हो सके। कहा जाता है कि हमें १५ परसैंट २५ परसैंट बिजली मिलेगी। पंजाब वाले कहते हैं कि हमें हिस्सा दो। उन्हें किस बात का हिस्सा दें? जोगिन्द्रनगर का जो बिजली प्रोजैक्ट है, उसमें से सारी बिजली पंजाब लेगा, यह कहा गया है। यह ठीक नहीं है। हमारा हरियाणा की तरफ बकाया पैसा है। वह हमें देने के लिए तैयार नहीं है। हम सुप्रीम कोर्ट और हाई कोर्ट गए। इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार सारे केस वापस ले। वहां धूमल जी की सरकार है। आप उन्हें पैसा दें ताकि हिमाचल प्रदेश तरक्की कर सके। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं।

... (Interruptions)

SHRI K.S. RAO (MACHILIPATNAM): Please permit two minutes each. There are some more Members, please give them also an opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: No, please. We have to take up the discussion under Rule 193 also.

SHRI K.S. RAO : That is all right. You are restricting the time to two minutes each. You are not giving much time. (Interruptions)

श्रीमती भावना देवराजभाई चिखलिया (जूनागढ़) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, महिलाओं पर हो रहे अत्याचार पर भी नियम १९३ के अधीन चर्चा होनी है।

... (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अगर १९३ पर डिसकशन नहीं होगा तो उनके सास डिसक्रिमिनेशन हो जाएगा।

... (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: An hon. Member from your party has already spoken. Please cooperate. Next time I will allow you. Shri Rao, please take your seat.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sushil Kumar Singh, please cooperate with me this time. ... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): I hope, it is not going to be an atrocity on the Minister of Power! (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Sir, at least one more Party can be accommodated.

MR. SPEAKER: After the hon. Minister's reply, you can ask questions or clarifications.

">SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I firstly thank you as well as the hon. Members of this House for having participated in this debate and, I must say, showing concern with regard to the power sector.

This has been one of the very useful debates. Whether it was fortuitous or it happened to be an accident, extremely interesting points have come up.

Before I reply to the points raised, I would like to quickly go into the background of the Bill, which I will mention and then deal with the issues.

Hon. Members will recollect that the Indian Electricity Act of 1910 had enabled electricity licensees to supply power in cities. In 1947, it was decided that power should be supplied to the rural areas along with the cities. Hence came the 1948 Act. This integrated the State grid into an integrated grid and set up the State Electricity Boards. That was the first time the Electricity Boards came into being. It also set up the Central Electricity Authority.

Though licences were allowed in the 1910 Act, a clear scheme for fixation of tariffs was evolved only later in the Sixth Schedule of the 1948 Act. In the 1960s, the Government decided that the States should be joined together to form regions and the grid should be integrated to the regional level. Hence the RLDCs and the REBs which have been referred to were set up. Surprisingly, they were only made legal in 1991. Though they actually started operations in the 1960s, it was at that stage that a need was felt to do that.

In the 1980s, a situation came up where we needed a national grid. It was then that the Power Grid Corporation was set up. This Act's primary duty seems to be to give a legal status to the Power Grid Corporation and to separate transmission as an independent activity. The Power Grid Corporation, surprisingly, is a generation company in terms of licences. Without this amendment, we would have a situation where a company, which is basically a transmission company is being treated as a generation company because the statute does not provide for looking at transmission separately.

Many of my hon. friends have mentioned that transmission is essentially an integral part of generation and distribution. I do not deny that because when we talk of power, we start with generation and end up with distribution and neutralisation of power. But they are both like what we often say in legal parlance, `joint and several'. Transmission is severable because it needs that kind of an attention today.

Many hon. Members have pointed out that when we spend one rupee on generation, we should spend the other rupee on transmission and failure on our part to do this has caused a number of problems. In fact, today, we have a situation where the actual shortage of power from the point of view of demand and supply is only about nine per cent. But when one looks from the point of view of the user at the power cuts and the lack of quality power, it looks loomingly large at somewhere around 25 per cent to 30 per cent.

It is because the power is not ultimately utilized by the consumers. It is either going by way of theft or as transmission and distribution losses. It is going in various other forms. But it is not reaching the consumers ultimately. There is a desparate necessity to bring transparency in the power sector as rightly pointed out by the hon. Member, Shri Prakash Ambedkar. He has pointed out that the cost of generation in the power sector is causing worry as to what is going to be the ultimate tariff. I wish to tell him, through you, Sir, that one plant does not have to give us that much of worry. It has been historically seen that whenever privatisation is done in what is normally called, the Core Command Economy Monopoly Sector Area, in the initial flush, there would be lack of competition and prices would be high. The first couple of plants that come up in the private sector will have high price. I have been criticized in the Press very recently when I have been voicing the same view, that the need of the hour is to have a competitively produced power to ensure that you get a reasonably priced power for the people of India. I have got a lot of buffeting from all over saying that I am doing day dreaming. But I can assure this House, through you, that I am confident that the methods that we are adopting has borne out of the experience of the last six or seven years. It is not that I have brought out a magic. They taught us that the price of even private power can be reasonable and can be competitive. In fact, in some cases, I am hopeful that they should be more reasonable than even public sector produced power. But that does not necessarily mean that public sector is inefficient.

Insofar as the Central public sector is concerned, I can say with authority that they have done yeoman service to the power sector. With just a mere return of twelve per cent of investment, the NTPC has been able to show a profit of over Rs. 2,000 crore. It is not a joke to achieve that level of efficiency. Private sector will find it quite difficult to reach those levels. Of course, there are various protections which you do not give to the private sector. It is an ever-continuing process. But I must say and point out that that this Bill does not privatise transmission. It has been repeated endlessly for the last six days that this Bill privatises transmission. No, it does not privatise transmission. This Bill provides that transmission will remain in what is called the Central sector and in the State sector it will remain with the SEBs. It has to be either the Government Board or the Government Company. What this Bill permits is, in addition to creating what is called transmission utilities, it allows to bring into existence that if somebody wishes to invest or come forward to invest for providing facilities, that transmission utility can make use of those services at a charge which is reviewable by the Regulatory Authority or the Commission. I think this is important for me to point this out.

SHRI K.S. RAO : Who will provide land?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: The Act provides for acquisition. As is provided in the Telegraph Act, emergency powers have been provided for acquisition. I can go provision by provision, but this is the situation. I must point this out.

17.00 hrs.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (COOCHBEHAR): When you are saying that there will not be privatisation, you are saying that somebody will come with commitment. What is that?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Privatisation means the act of being responsible for transmitting power, managing the transmission of power, managing the power to move from point `A' to `B', and being responsible for the quantity of power, the quality of power and it will be the utility.

Here, it is like taking on lease - if one puts it in normal term - a facility by a public sector company or a Government set up. It is not a case where we say that the building belongs to you and therefore, if the company takes it on lease, you have bought over the public sector company. It is just making available a facility. I want to explain that it is a facility of infrastructure.

This is to bring in investment without losing control. This is to bring in investment without losing control because the control of the grid, the management of the grid and the direction of the grid will remain with the central utility which is a Government company. I mean, we are beating about the bush. All that we are doing is that we are trying to bring in a concept in the power sector that anybody who has got money and can afford to build an infrastructure, will build an infrastructure and offer it to you. Of course, before he builds it, he would ask you to offer first. If the offer is acceptable to the utility, the utility would recommend it; then he is given a licence to build. Whatever rate he fixes as charges, in normal terms, it would be called lease; and that would be reviewed by the Regulatory Commission in an open hearing and nothing is going to happen behind the doors. What better transparency provision, I would like to know, can one make without losing control?

I must commend the Standing Committee for having done a yeoman service. It is not my work. The Standing Committee had gone into it in depth; it had given recommendations; it had specifically made recommendations saying that we have to maintain control over transmission; at the same time, ensuring the possibility of private participation and at the same time, ensuring that there is growth.

I think, this is one of the best Bills. It is not a Bill of mine, I mean, as soon as I became a Minister, I brought it. This is a Bill that has come to Parliament before; it has been considered by the Standing Committee; it has been debated and dissented also. But when I saw this Bill in depth, I felt that this is one of the best pieces of legislation that I have seen in the power sector and so, I brought it.

I would not take too long. But I would like to say that the first hon. Member who spoke, Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan, pointed out certain things very categorically. One of them was about the tariff that is payable for use of the transmission lines. He asked: why should it be determined, why did we give this exemption for determination, why should we allow the Government or the CERC to give exemption, etc.

I must also, through you, Mr. Speaker, inform the august House that actually today we have constituted the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and the notification of its constitution would be issued today. I am also pleasantly surprised and at the same time, happy to inform this House that my own home State, that is, the State of Tamil Nadu, has been one of the first States to come forward with a notification -- of course, after Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Orissa; and the hon. Speaker should not misunderstand. Andhra Pradesh has regulated its own Bill and it brought forward its own Act. So, in the case of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Orissa, they had brought forward their own legislations.

It was rumoured and said otherwise. In fact, my friend Shri Sultanpuri while speaking talked about our alliance party, AIADMK - with a certain amount of contempt and said that I did not have time for it.

But let me inform this House that the Government of Tamil Nadu has notified the application of the CERC/SERC Act. They have notified a Selection Committee and are going to constitute the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission. Similarly, I have over 12 States which have come forward and have applied for the Electricity Regulatory Commissions. There was a lot of criticism at that time saying that we have given option to the States, we have watered down the Act, and that the whole intention of the Act had gone. Sir, ultimately, time proves as to who is wrong and who is right. I am not saying that anybody is in the wrong. All I would like to say is that my trust in the democratic system and my belief in the compulsions of time have proved correct as regards these steps which we have been taking with regard to the Regulatory Commissions and now with regard to this Bill. I believe that over a period of time, with regard to amendments, we would come in to consolidate the reform process and by consolidating the reform process, I am more than certain that we would be able to hopefully meet, by the year 2007, the objective of ensuring that our nation is one of those modern nations where power is not a liability.

There was a question that had been raised by my good friend Prof. Saifuddin Soz to the extent that Salal Power Project gets power to the Valley and that the Government of India or the Power Grid did not help them. That was his allegation. I want to inform him, through you, that Salal Power Project gets supply to the Valley through a 220 KV double circuit Krishnapur-Pampore line of J&K Power Department. After commissioning of this hydro project, power supply in the Valley has significantly improved due to the Wagaon transmission, an establishment

of the Zainkot sub-station. I am just keeping him informed. Some of the names needs a little practice in pronunciation.

With regard to the punishment, I would like to assure my hon. friend, Prof. Soz that it is a very good suggestion but unfortunately, this is an amendment which is coming as part of the existing Act of 1910. In the Act of 1910, Section 41(a) is being added to Section 41 which actually speaks in identical terms. We felt that when we bring the comprehensive Bill, we would bring specially the amending and upgrading penalties. We will do it together because we thought that the same punishment which is provided as punishment for non-licensees for giving supply would be appropriate for transmission also. Otherwise, there would be an imbalance in the Act. I would assure the hon. Members through you that when we would bring it, we would upgrade the punishment to make it more relevant to the times...(Interruptions)

But let me inform that punishment for theft is different. Punishment for theft is provided for under Sections 39 and 40. I am talking about non-theft. It is as if I have a private generator and I supply you power and there is a punishment for it. Now, you have a private transmission line also going on by the way in many private areas where a cable is taken of directly from the sub-station and is transmitted to a few houses. The whole thing is a private network where no bills are paid and only expenses are paid. This is going on in some places. Some colonies have this system. It is there even in the most modern cities like Delhi. The point which is important to note is that it has provided penalties for theft. But even in such illegal supplies, I believe and agree with the Members that we need to upgrade it not only for one form of offence like transmission supply but also for generation and distribution. But it has to be done in a consolidated form. I can assure the hon. Members through you that we will come to the House.

I have taken enough time.

SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA (MARMAGOA): The line from Kolhapur to Ponda is to be strengthened.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: With regard to that, I will inform you.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : The point regarding impact on consumers has not been answered.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: With regard to impact on consumers, I want to make out categorically that I do believe that there will be a small impact. If we delay the setting up of the transmission lines, what are the options with us? The option is: I say no private investment. I do not have money to invest. So, the line will not come up.

The nation does not have money to invest to the extent that we require. If they do not have transmission lines, the losses that we are facing in terms of backing up generation in the Eastern region is 2000 MW of capacity. We are constrained to back up because there is no facility to evacuate that power. Today, to bring that power from Orissa to Tamil Nadu, you have to take power at Rs. 1.60. It runs all the way from the Northern zone and lands up to the Southern region. It costs almost 80 paise because the route it travels is large. It goes from the East to the North and from the North to the West and from the West to the South. I mean, they could not think of a more devious way of reaching! It is almost like trying to catch the none from the other side. This is because the lines are not available.

If we do not have the money to invest today, anyway, that line will have to be built tomorrow to facilitate at that particular stage. You will (a) today, be paying more price for the power that you are transferring; and (b) actually, you are going to end up in a situation where you are not even able to supply. So, a line is required. It should come at a time at which it is required. If you look at the economics, it will still be cheaper. That is why what has been done in the scheme is to ensure that transmission utility decides where and which segment will be made available for investment. It is not that anybody can set up a line anywhere and demand because it must come out of the circuit. It must be reasonably priced. It must not push the price beyond levels on which consumptions are possible. That is why the utility has been given the authority to recommend. The Regulatory Commission which shares a public hearing is the one which will approve the price. There is enough protection and transparence. I do not worry about that at all. I will say that has no impact. You have to weigh the impact of

increase here vis a vis the cost today of bringing this power all the way around. If you do that, you will find it cheaper. But if you look at it per se and let us assume that you give me a Government grant or you give me a budgetary provision, of course, it will be cheaper because budgetary money does not have a price.

If I take private money, I have to pay interest. I have to pay return on investment. So, naturally, there will be a difference. But where is the money? How long are you going to wait for investment to come. These are real and serious issues to be addressed because we are not talking of Rs. 2000, Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 10,000 but we are talking of Rs. 100,000 and Rs. 150,000 crore. So, we have to devise novel, new and sharp methods by which we do not lose control. You maintain your objectives and you achieve the delivering party of people. That is why I said that this is no longer a sector to be looked at as an attempt to privatise or an attempt to nationalise. These are not the answers any more. Today, none of these magic words work. People want deliverance. They want power at their doorsteps at a price they can afford. That is how they are going to measure all of us.

I am sorry, I have taken enough time. But with regard to the Goa line, I want to say that there is also a 400 KVA line from Kolhapur to Goa. Let me tell you that this line, 160 kms in length, is geared by the CEA and is under construction. So, you will have it soon.

SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Today, the people in Goa are blaming our hon. Minister of Power. But his hands are tied. Today, we are having only 200 MW while the consumption is around 300 MW.

Sir, it should be completed on a war footing.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I will again clarify the position to my friend.

Today, a 220 KV DC line from Kolhapur in the Western region and another 220 KV and 132 KV line from Supa in Karnataka from the Southern region is in place. So, for the future I can assure the hon. Member, through you, that for this 160 KM line, 400 KV advance AC line would be up. It has been cleared and I can assure the hon. Member that Goa would soon forget power shortage as a thing of the past and one of history.

Sir, with these words I would like to request the hon. Members of the House to pass this Bill. This, actually was a unanimous Bill.

श्री सुशील कुमार सिंह (औरंगाबाद) (बिहार): अध्यक्ष महोदय, बिजली के मामले में यदि सबसे खराब स्थिति कहीं है तो वह बिहार है।

... (व्यवधान)

यदि आप हवाई यात्रा करते हैं तो जहां सबसे बड़ा ब्लैक स्पॉट नजर आए समझ लीजिए कि वह बिहार है। ... (व्यवधान) वहां के लिए कमीशन में कुछ नहीं कहा गया।

... (व्यवधान)

नबी करीम सुपर थर्मल पावर प्रपोज़ड है। मैं जब भी मंत्री जी से बिहार के बारे में कहता हूं तो माथा पकड़ लेते हैं और कहते हैं कि तुम बिहार के बारे में कह रहे हो। ... (व्यवधान) लगभग १०,००० मैगावाट बिजली का उत्पादन होता है। बिहार में मात्र ३०० से ४०० मैगावाट प्रतिदिन का जनरेशन है।

... (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sushil Kumar, the hon. Minister is giving the reply.

श्री सुशील कुमार सिंह (औरंगाबाद) (बिहार): वहां पांच प्रतिशत गांवों में भी बिजली नहीं है।

... (व्यवधान)

बिहार के लिए स्पैशल पैकेज के बारे में कुछ कहें।

... (व्यवधान)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, through you, I would like to submit that the Members from the State of Bihar have spoken very strongly on the power situation.

MR. SPEAKER: Say something about Uttar Pradesh also.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I do understand the inadequacy of the power sector in Bihar and there are multiple reasons for it.

Sir, with regard to the transmission, within the arena I could talk about, I would like to submit that the power shortage in North Bihar is on account of, what is called, sub-transmission problem - that is once from the main grid you step it down.

Sir, we have major problems in Bihar. The main problem in Bihar is that of `white elephants' as has been pointed out by Shri Rajo Singh. I can say this much that the REC, when it gives a loan, is normally expected to supervise, at the end of the loan period or during the loan period, that a particular sub-transmission sector is put up. But what happens in Bihar is that when we go for, what is called, surveying, to check out the final clearance of a project, we are told that all the copper lines have left the transmission towers and gone to Nepal. Or, we are told that the cables have been cut off and made into ingots by thieves. We are having a major difficulty. It is very easy for the RECs to sanction money but after sanctioning monies to ensure that the work is done on the ground is a little of a `white elephant', as has been referred to by Shri Rajo Singh.

Unfortunately, it is the responsibility of the Bihar State Electricity Board. We are having some discussions with the State Government. We are trying our best to improve the situation.

Sir, in regard to the Nabinagar project, I would like to assure my friends that this project will soon be a mega project where they would have 2,000 megawatt of power being produced there. It is coming under the new mega project scheme which the Cabinet is considering.

Sir, with these words, I would like to request the House to pass the Bill ... (Interruptions)

MR.SPEAKER: All are interested to know about the REC.

श्रीमती उषा मीणा (सवाईमाधोपुर): राजस्थान में नर्सरी नाम से एक योजना चलाई जा रही है, जिसमें किसानों को बिजली के खम्भे के पैसे देने पड़ते हैं, क्या उस योजना को समाप्त करने का विचार है?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I would like to make one thing clear. Rural Electrification Corporation is basically a company that carries out three major activities. One of the activities which it does is, it helps the State Electricity Boards to set up rural transmission network. Secondly, it talks about energizing pumpsets, that is providing an additional loan for the last kilometre as it is called, for the pumpsets in agriculture. Thirdly, it has got what is called the kutir Jyoti Scheme under which we give Rs.1000 to any hutment to put up connection. These are all ultimately financial organisations and financial activity. The actual construction is done by the State Electricity Board. I think one should understand it. Many Members of Parliament have approached me saying that in their constituencies they need some rural electrification plan. Through you, I would like to assure them that if it comes through the State Electricity Boards, it will be given special attention and if a Member of Parliament has asked for it , it will be given even more special attention.

With regard to Himachal Pradesh, I would like to submit that Himachal Pradesh is already aware that for any new power project with regard to hydro, 12 per cent free power is made available to the State which is in fact an indirect way of generation of tax. The real problem is with regard to the famous BBMB. When it was constructed, there was no tax or free power available. Today, power is available from the wonderful generating station at 9 paise per unit. I think Shri Sharad Pawar, the Leader of the Opposition, would be taken back. That may be one of the reasons why Punjab can today talk of very low tariff for agriculture. We are having discussion of the four Northern Chief Ministers of the region. We plan to sort this out. Immediately after the Session, I think in the first week or as and when time is there, we will sit and discuss and sort out this problem.

श्री राजवीर सिंह (आंवला): पिछले ५० वर्षों में जो विद्युत अव्यवस्था फैली है, उसका निराकरण मंत्री जी कैसे करेंगे? इसके साथ मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि हमारे राज्य के गांवों में फर्जी विद्युतीकरण हुआ है। गांव के लोग परेशान हैं, क्योंकि नए कनेक्शन इसलिए मिलने मुश्किल हैं कि रिकार्ड में और कागजों में दर्ज है कि यह गांव विद्युतीकृत हो चुका है। लगता है ऐसा भारत सरकार ने या राज्य सरकार ने विश्व बैंक से पैसा लेने के लिए किया होगा, लेकिन लोगों को कष्ट झेलना पड़ रहा है। इस प्रकार से फर्जी विद्युतीकरण जिन गांवों में जिस राज्य सरकार के समय हुआ, उसकी जांच करा कर क्या उन अधिकारियों को आप दंडित करेंगे? इसके अलावा मैं एक प्रश्न और पूछना चाहता हूं कि टिहरी पन-बिजली परियोजना रुकी पड़ी है, अगर यह ठीक समय पर पूरी हो जाती तो करोड़ों रुपया तो बचता ही, साथ ही साथ समस्त उत्तर भारत में बिजली की समस्या का समाधान भी हो जाता। यह योजना कब तक पूरी हो जाएगी?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, would you like to respond to the issues related to Uttar Pradesh?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: With regard to Tehri project, it is my hope that as per the programme, Tehri will start producing its 1000 megawatts of power by the year 2002. In regard to the rehabilitation problem which has been brought to the notice of the House, I assure the Members, that we would pay not only attention to it but I myself will be personally going across to Tehri to see what the problems are. The State Government has constituted a task force consisting of the local MLAs and the Members of Parliament. I have even told the State Government that if they have any difficulty in providing their share of equity, we would provide it but they would lose their share of power. I want to assure the hon. Members that the project will go on.

MR. SPEAKER: The questions is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 13 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 13 were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula

and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.